

PDG B-5 2nd Quarterly Performance Progress Report

Activity 1: Needs Assessment

1. Major Activities and accomplishments during this period

Per the Needs Assessment Work Plan chart on page 9 of the Illinois Project Description, in Phase 1 (Initial outreach and information gathering), we have completed the first task (to contract with an external entity to conduct the portions of the needs assessment not yet completed or underway) as of July 3. This external entity will complete the remaining tasks in Phase 1, the tasks in Phase 2 (Inventory and analyze existing statewide needs assessments), the first task in Phase 3 (Needs assessment as planning tool), and the task in Phase 5 (Needs assessment as tool supporting execution).

In reference to the first task in Phase 3 (Needs assessment as planning tool), we have fully executed an Intergovernmental Agreement and finalized a work plan with Northern Illinois University (NIU) to develop an unduplicated number of children being served, to the extent practicable. NIU has conducted initial meetings with the Illinois Department of Human Services, the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), the City of Chicago, and the Illinois Head Start Association; finalized the project scope and nearly executed relevant data sharing agreements; and identified Head Start grantees for proposed case studies.

In reference to the second task in Phase 3, we have fully executed an Intergovernmental Agreement with the University of Illinois to develop a restructured performance measurement plan based on the ELC Metrics Dashboard published in IECAM and in tandem with the strategic planning process. In preparation for the beginning of activities, the IECAM staff have been reacquainting themselves with the background of the Early Childhood Dashboard, the original purpose, the chosen metrics and indicators, and the availability of data. One of the reasons the current Dashboard is not populated as well as we would have liked is because of the unavailability of data.

In reference to Phase 4 (Needs assessment as analysis), we have fully executed an Intergovernmental Agreement and finalized a work plan with NIU to analyze the cost of providing high-quality early childhood care and education (ECCE) services to all families, including an analysis of barriers to funding and providing high-quality ECCE services and opportunities for more efficient use of resources. Initial staffing pattern models have been developed based on program regulations and best practices from literature, and meetings with the Early Learning Council's Data, Research and Evaluation Subcommittee, the Early Learning Council's Quality Committee, and the Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development's (GOECD's) Early Childhood Inter-Agency Team have been scheduled to provide input on methodology and cost model parameters.

2. Problems

Problems with Activity 1 have been associated with delays in procurement for the needs assessment, as stated in the previous quarter report. These problems have been resolved.

3. Significant findings and events:

N/A for this reporting period.

4. Dissemination activities:

Current dissemination activities include providing regular updates at applicable Early Learning Council committee and subcommittee meetings.

5. Other activities:

With regards to the work with NIU to develop an unduplicated number of children being served, NIU discussed possible plans of action, including a landscape scan, for incorporating difficult-to-obtain Head Start data from Chicago. With regards to the work with NIU to analyze the cost of providing high-quality ECCE services to all families, NIU reviewed the CEELo State Administrative Cost of Quality tool for examples of how to look at infrastructure costs.

6. Activities planned for next reporting period:

- Phase 1: Initial outreach and information gathering
 - Conduct a literature review of best practices for needs assessment.
 - Begin conducting external stakeholder focus groups and analysis.
- Phase 2: Inventory and analyze existing statewide needs assessments
 - Begin analysis of existing state and federal needs assessments and other existing needs assessments.
- Phase 3: Needs assessment as planning tool
 - To support development of an unduplicated number of children being served: finalize and execute data sharing agreements; identify and engage Head Start grantees for case studies; finalize tentative data analysis plans; begin implementation of recommendations for mitigating known barriers to data analysis; complete data transfers to NIU; test and clean transferred data; and link data with itself and with program and geographic data.
 - Develop and begin implementation of a work plan to develop a restructured performance measurement plan based on the Early Learning Council Metrics Dashboard published on the Illinois Early Childhood Asset Map and in tandem with the strategic planning process.
- Phase 4: Needs assessment as analysis
 - To support analysis of the cost of providing high-quality ECCE services to all families: develop and gain consensus on staffing pattern models and develop a dynamic cost model including components and research questions in work plan.

PDG B-5 2nd Quarterly Performance Progress Report

Activity 2: Strategic Plan

1. Major Activities and accomplishments during this period

On June 10, 2019, we held a Strategic Visioning and Planning Retreat that initiated our strategic planning activities while we waited for the procurement process to be completed. The retreat was privately funded. Participants included Early Learning Council Executive Committee members and stakeholders from all sectors: community organizations, funders, advocacy, state agencies, universities, and the Governor's Office. The report is to be complete by July 29, 2019. The contract for Strategic Planning has been awarded and finalized with American Institutes of Research (AIR). Initial meetings have been held and work is beginning, which will be informed by the final Strategic Visioning and Planning Retreat report. The Governance work will also be done by AIR and is underway. Focused planning for children in child welfare, to be implemented by the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), is moving forward with the hiring of an Early Childhood Home Visiting Specialist at Erikson Institute. Focused planning to expand coordinated intake has begun. For the coordinated intake work, a PDG B-5 Maternal Infant and Early Childhood (MIECHV) Coordinated Intake Strategy Manager was hired at GOECD (in May), and stakeholder interviews, research, and the identification of other states' approaches to coordinated intake has begun. Work on the Kindergarten Transition (KT) facilitation has also begun with the convening of the planning team, the development of a survey for early childhood and school administrators regarding current KTs, and the development of a crosswalk on KT deliverables. For the inclusion recommendations for the strategic plan, the work plan created and revised, a core group initial meeting was conducted, and contractor recruitment has begun.

2. Problems

Problems with Strategic Planning overall were the delay in contracting a consultant due to ISBE's lengthy procurement process. The Strategic Planning contract was not executed until the end of June. Likewise, there were delays in executing the Intergovernmental Agreement with DCFS in order to begin the focused planning within child welfare. There were delays in hiring the staff for the coordinated intake expansion due to the contracting process as well. KT work had some difficulties navigating around the end of the school year. Contractor delays were a problem for the Inclusion work, as originally identified contractor declined. However, no changes in any scopes of work have been made as a result of these delays.

3. Significant findings and events:

The most significant event for the development of the strategic plan was the Strategic Visioning and Planning Retreat held on June 10, 2019. For the coordinated intake work, the project has received input and widespread support from the Home Visiting Task Force Executive Committee on the Early Learning Council, as well as support for reconvening a Regional Point of Entry committee to guide the project.

4. Dissemination activities:

During this quarter, the primary dissemination activity has been the survey on Kindergarten Transition practices to early childhood collaboratives of DuPage county.

5. Other activities:

Generally, all other activities have been focused on completing workplans, organizing core working groups, researching, and hiring.

6. Activities planned for next reporting period:

Strategic Plan: Contractor finalizes workplan; completes reviews of existing strategic plans including Strategic Visioning and Planning Retreat foundational document; and works with Early Learning Council PDG B-5 Advisory committee to plan external stakeholder engagement activities.

Focused planning—child welfare: Complete workplan with deliverables and milestones; conduct interviews and local meetings to identify barriers to access.

Focused planning—coordinated intake: Create an outline of the strategic plan; write a summary of stakeholder feedback and background information collected to date; reconvene the Regional Points of Entry Committee; develop a draft of the strategic plan with stakeholder recommendations incorporated.

Kindergarten Transition: Complete a review of the recommended practices and policy changes, to include identification of those that can be piloted in Illinois Local Education Agencies.

Governance: Contractor will meet with Governor's office staff (Deputy Governors, Secretary of DHS, Superintendent ISBE, etc.); revise and update workplan; coordinate with Governor's Early Childhood Funding Commission; and review other states' governance models.

Inclusion: Review, analyze, and coalesce existing data and information from multiple sources; review and analyze policy statements from the various professional organizations; organize above to facilitate conversations with stakeholders; and engage stakeholders and family leadership.

PDG B-5 2nd Quarterly Performance Progress Report

Activity 3: Parent Knowledge, Choice and Engagement

1. Major Activities and accomplishments during this period

A Family Engagement Manager was hired at GOECD; she started on July 8, 2019. The Family Advisory Committee Workgroup meeting has been confirmed for August 14, 2019. A team meeting (of state partners) was held on July 12, 2019, to discuss components related to the ExceleRate Website and the DCFS Sunshine Website. At this meeting, the team discussed the alignment/interface for a Consumer Education Website as well.

Inclusion: A workplan has been finalized for this project. Work has started on creating a plan for revising "Understanding LRE". The Early Childhood Least Restrictive Environment Stakeholders Consortium has created a public awareness work group that will serve as the core group to support this project/activity. Additional individuals will be added that represent the B-5 system and include parent representation.

Families experiencing homelessness: A workplan has been developed for this project. A survey of ISBE Homeless Liaisons is in progress and includes suggestions for materials and formats. Feedback will be used to inform the content for the homelessness toolkit. Discussions are progress to begin plans for a fall webinar on young children experiencing homelessness. Discussions are also in progress regarding the development of the Resource Directory.

2. Problems

We need to address the structure and staffing for the Family Advisory Committee on the Early Learning Council.

3. Significant findings and events:

N/A for this reporting period.

4. Dissemination activities:

N/A for this reporting period.

5. Other activities:

N/A for this reporting period.

6. Activities planned for next reporting period:

An Intergovernmental Agreement will be executed with DHS (state agency partner) for the Parent and Community Cafes, and a formal initial planning meeting will be held with project partners. The Family Advisory Council Workgroup meeting will be held, and a work plan will be developed. For both the

ExceleRate Illinois and DCFS Sunshine websites, our partners will initiate a crosswalk of component requirements/alignment for the Consumer Education website. For the inclusion work, the composition of EC LRE Stakeholders Consortium will include representation from B-5 system and parent representation. For the work supporting families experiencing homelessness, the survey of ISBE Homeless Liaisons will be completed and analyzed, plans will be finalized for a fall webinar on young children experiencing homelessness, and the content elements for Resource Directory will be determined.

PDG B-5 2nd Quarterly Performance Progress Report

Activity 4: Sharing Best Practices

1. Major Activities and accomplishments during this period

Coordinating ECCE Professional Development: GOECD conducted an initial professional development, training, and technical assistance systems scan and identified a personal service contractor whose contract begins in Q3 to complete the deliverables under this project.

Quality Supports for Family, Friend, and Neighbor (FFN) Providers: A contract was awarded to Illinois Action for Children (IAFC). IAFC hired project manager, finalized the work plan, and completed preparation for conducting focus groups.

Infant/Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation (IECMHC) Data System: A contract was awarded to Illinois Network of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (INCCRRA). INCCRRA finalized a work plan and worked with stakeholders to complete the initial identification of data fields for the consultant search/listing and consultant activity tracking.

Community of Practice (CoP) for Facilitating Attuned Interactions (FAN) in Home Visiting: A contract with Erikson Institute was executed on June 19, 2019. Work plan, times, locations, and facilitators for the CoP are close to being finalized.

Projects to develop Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) Communities of Practice and College Cohort Models were moved from Activity 5 to Activity 4, as approved by our Federal Project Officer.

The Intergovernmental Agreement with the Department of Human Services (DHS) will include the development of a Community Systems Portal Website, CQI CoP, and College Cohort Models (as well as other projects under activities 3 and 5) and is in process/close to being executed.

2. Problems

The process to finalize Intergovernmental Agreements is slow and has delayed the official start of the two Activity 5 projects that have moved into Activity 4.

3. Significant findings and events:

N/A for this reporting period.

4. Dissemination activities:

Quality Supports for FFN Providers: IAFC convened CCR&R and training partners to engage in outreach to providers for focus group sessions.

CQI CoP: GOECD presented its new CQI framework at the CCEEPRG (research) conference and at the BUILD QRIS conference.

5. Other activities:

N/A for this reporting period.

6. Activities planned for next reporting period:

Contracts for Community Systems Portal Website, CQI CoP, and College Cohort Models should be executed with DHS and work on those projects is expected to begin.

The contractor working on Coordinating ECCE PD will hold stakeholder focus groups, complete a systems scan, and draft initial recommendations for alignment.

FFN Supports: IAFC will conduct six focus groups, complete focus group report and present findings, and begin development of trainings and supports.

The FAN CoP is expected to launch in August.

IECHMHC Data System: Data fields will be finalized, and the identification of consultants is expected to be completed by September.

State/Territory: Illinois

Date: July 26, 2019

PDG B-5 2nd Quarterly Performance Progress Report

Activity 5: Improving Overall Quality

1. Major Activities and accomplishments during this period

Two Activity 5 projects, CQI Communities of Practice and College Cohort Models, have been moved to Activity 4, as approved. The other four projects were not scheduled to begin in Quarter 2.

2. Problems

N/A for this reporting period.

3. Significant findings and events:

N/A for this reporting period.

4. Dissemination activities:

N/A for this reporting period.

5. Other activities:

N/A for this reporting period.

6. Activities planned for next reporting period:

Unless further guidance is provided, our Activity 5 projects are not scheduled to begin until after the Needs Assessment and Strategic Plan are either completed and submitted or much further along, which will likely be in Quarter 4.